

**Introduced by Senator Padilla**

February 23, 2007

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An act to amend Section 873 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to telecommunications.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 1013, as introduced, Padilla. Telecommunications: universal service.

The Moore Universal Telephone Service Act established the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service (ULTS) program in order to provide low-income households with access to affordable basic residential telephone service. Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to annually designate a class of lifeline service necessary to meet minimum residential communications needs. Existing law provides that minimum residential communications needs includes the ability to originate and receive calls and the ability to access electronic information services.

This bill would require the commission to annually designate a class of lifeline service, including broadband service, necessary to meet minimum residential communications needs, including the ability to originate and receive calls and the ability to access electronic information services at reasonable download and upload speeds.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Section 873 of the Public Utilities Code is  
2     amended to read:

1       873. (a) The commission shall annually do all of the following:

2       (1) Designate a class of lifeline service, *including broadband*  
3 *service*, necessary to meet minimum residential communications  
4 needs.

5       (2) Set the rates and charges for that service.

6       (3) Develop eligibility criteria for that service.

7       (4) Assess the degree of achievement of universal service,  
8 including telephone penetration rates by income, ethnicity, and  
9 geography.

10      This information shall be annually reported to the Legislature  
11 by the commission in a document which can be made public.

12      (b) Minimum residential communications needs ~~includes, but~~  
13 ~~is not limited to,~~ *include* the ability to originate and receive calls  
14 and the ability to access electronic information services *at*  
15 *reasonable download and upload speeds*.